

## Remarks

In the present response, one claim (20) is amended. Claims 20-30 are presented for examination.

### I. Claim Rejections: 35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 20-22 and 24-30 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 6,944,361 (Xue). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

A proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that a single prior art reference disclose each element of the claim. See MPEP § 2131, also, *W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 U.S.P.Q. 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Since Xue neither teaches nor suggests each element in the claims, these claims are allowable over Xue.

Independent claim 20 recites numerous recitations that are not disclosed in Xue. By way of example, claim 20 recites “control signals communicate to the optical switches to change the optical switches between a transparent state that permits signal transmission and an opaque state that prevents signal transmission.” As shown in Figs. 1-5, Xue uses a waveguide bridge to connect optical paths. Xue does not disclose that control signals communicate to the optical switches to change the optical switches between a transparent state that permits signal transmission and an opaque state that prevents signal transmission.

For at least these reasons, claim 20 and its dependent claims are allowable over Xue.

### II. Claim Rejections: 35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 20 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by US publication number 2004/0042708 (Koh). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

A proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that a single prior art reference disclose each element of the claim. See MPEP § 2131, also, *W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 U.S.P.Q. 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

Since Koh neither teaches nor suggests each element in the claims, these claims are allowable over Koh.

Independent claim 20 recites numerous recitations that are not disclosed in Koh. By way of example, claim 20 recites “control signals communicate to the optical switches to change the optical switches between a transparent state that permits signal transmission and an opaque state that prevents signal transmission.” As shown in Figs. 2A-2B, Koh uses a phase shifter. Koh does not disclose that control signals communicate to the optical switches to change the optical switches between a transparent state that permits signal transmission and an opaque state that prevents signal transmission.

For at least these reasons, claim 20 and its dependent claims are allowable over Koh.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Philip S. Lyren at Telephone No. 832-236-5529. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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